



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update** **August 2006**

### **Next HCDOP meeting**

- *When/where*
  - September 12, 12:30pm to 3:30pm at the Puget Sound Action Team's office in Olympia.
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
  - Update on subcommittee discussion on HCDOP reporting and planning mechanism, and plans to use the CG meetings for more than 'internal briefing'. (Jan, Dan, Duane – with input from Bob H)
  - Update on 'aqua-marine' bloom in the canal (Jan, Dan)
  - News about Webb Hill monitoring plans (Seth B, Ecology (?), USGS – Gary)
  - HCDOP-IAM Event Response notification update. To re-visit the procedure and be sure it is current. (Jan & Dan)

### **Scientific Studies**

- *Project update*
  - An HCDOP IAM Biota Workshop was held August 11 at UW-Applied Physics Lab in Seattle and attended by about 30 individuals. The goals of the workshop were to acquaint the group with all people working on biota projects in Hood Canal, whether IAM or not, and to identify the key functional food-web members and associated data availability. Dr. Tim Essington (UW-SAFS) will be using the information for an energetics model of Hood Canal. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Duane Fagergren, Bob Hager, Dan Hannafious and Jan Newton met in Belfair to discuss program coordination for the HCDOP CAE and IAM components on September 1. They discussed how to establish timelines and milestones for each component as well as how to be sure both are well-integrated into one overall plan. A plan was identified for progress on this. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Molluscan Study – HCSEG is still in the process of modifying the scope of work for the project as recommended by the scientist panel. There has been no data collected on the project to date. (Toba, DNR)
  - Members of HCSEG and UW-SAFS met on August 14 at UW-SAFS in Seattle to discuss collaborative research efforts for the Hood Canal Molluscan Study. Tim Essington is developing a plan for the overall research. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Deepwater Geoduck and Cucumber Surveys – The scope of the project and budget are in the initial stages of development and a contract has not been signed yet. (Toba, DNR)

- *New information generated by projects*
  - In late August, various reports via email came to HCDOP IAM Co-Managers' attention about discolored (milky bluish-green) waters that had been observed approximately August 20 to early September in northern Hood Canal and Dabob Bay. While positive species ID is still needed, analysis to date indicates that this was a coccolithophore bloom, which is consistent with the coloration. Further details and information on what this organism is can be found on the HCDOP-IAM Bloom and Fish Kill Observations page:  
[http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/observations/bloom\\_fishkill.jsp](http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/observations/bloom_fishkill.jsp)

### **Corrective Actions**

- *Project update*
  - Kitsap County Health District is near completion of its final onsite sewage system repair in the southern-half of the Kitsap County portion of the Hood Canal Watershed. Twelve failures out of over 340 homes were identified during the Health District's Pollution Identification and Correction project, and 11 repairs have been completed. The final repair is expected to be completed by September 20, 2006. (Grellner, KCHD)
  - Skokomish Valley Anaerobic Digester -- Mason Conservation District received two proposals to design and construct an anaerobic digester, one from Biogas Energy Systems, Inc., and the other from Environmental Energy & Engineering Company. Both proposals are viable yet differ considerably in initial capital costs, operating costs, and net profits. Mason Conservation District has requested additional information, has conducted a detailed comparison of the two proposals, and plans to announce its selection by mid September. (Glasoe, PSAT)
  - Hoodsport-Skokomish Sewage Projects -- Mason County has nearly completed work on the alternatives analysis for Hoodsport-Skokomish corridor and will pursue a combination of sewage systems (central, cluster, onsite) to serve the area rather than a single centralized system. In August, Mason County, Mason County PUD #1 and the Skokomish Tribe signed a memorandum of agreement to guide the parties through the process of planning and implementing sewage management projects in the corridor. (Glasoe, PSAT)
  - PSAT, HCCC and IAC met to discuss the management on the local projects funded by the capital budget last session. Some of the projects are not as ready to proceed as we had hoped; the Skokomish to Hoodsport sewerage projects have an immediate need for \$177K to achieve the public process and pre-engineering and design stages for the projects, and the necessary funds to maintain momentum must be expended between now and December 2006. Some of the anticipated projects in Mason County may need to be postponed in order to fund the Skokomish to Hoodsport projects (Fagergren, PSAT)
  - PSAT met with the PUD, Mason County staff Emmett Dobey, Tribal staff, and the consultants L. Hoffman, Art O'Neal, and Mike Sharar several times on the MOU between the local parties on sewerage plans for the three areas between the Skokomish River and Hoodsport (Fagergren, PSAT)

- PSAT began work with the internal and interagency HC teams on developing materials to show progress of funded demonstration projects and other corrective actions, including sewerage projects in Belfair and Hoodspport to Skokomish in preparation for a GMAP session with Governor's staff on September 25 (Fagergren, PSAT)

### Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
  - Hood Canal Coordinating Council's Community Nearshore Restoration Program Update: Workshops were held on July 15 at the Theler Wetland Center and August 5 at Alderbrook. One hundred participants attended. Thirteen participants signed up to do marine riparian vegetation plantings. Eleven participants signed up to host beach walks. These workshops were successful in reaching many "out of town" property owners that were not previously aware of Hood Canal water quality problems. (Texeira, HCCC/ Piper,HCWEN)
  - Shore Stewards and Hood Canal Watershed Pledge hosted educational booths and displays at the *Taste of Hood Canal* on August 12 in Belfair and at *Harmony Hill Summerfest* on August 26. WSU distributed a lot of information about Hood Canal water quality and what people can do to help. New participants signed up to be involved in each program. (Piper, WSU Extension)
  - WSU hosted a water quality education booth at the Squaxin Island Tribe's Salmonfest on August 19. (Piper, WSU Extension)
  - Project managers from the education projects funded through PSAT for this biennium have met twice and are working on a developing a coordinated system of evaluation for the four programs. WA Sea Grant, Mason Conservation District, Jefferson Conservation District and WSU Jefferson County Extension are all involved in this process. (Piper, HCWEN/Knackstedt, PSAT)
  - Educators from WSU Extension, WA Sea Grant and Mason and Kitsap County health dept staff met with Terry Hull (PSAT) on August 31 to discuss Onsite Septic System education needs and messages. This is a follow up to a meeting, which occurred on July 18 to continue to discuss messaging and education needs. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - Jan Newton gave the lunch-time talk to the Hood Canal Legislators' Boat Tour at Alderbrook on 21 August. Jan covered a brief review of the situation, what the HCDOP-IAM study is doing, and initial results. The lunch audience included legislators, staff, and key local HCDOP partners. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Dan Hannafious spoke to the Hartstene Island Kiwanis at the Spencer Lake Resort on 30 August. Dan provided an overview of the HCDOP program as well as other HCSEG salmon-related activities. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
  - Kitsap County Health District is holding a project kick-off public meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 7 pm at the Clear Creek Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the Health District's next Pollution

Identification and Correction project for the northern half of the Kitsap County portion of Hood Canal Watershed. (Grellner, KCHD)

- HCWEN Sept. 14, 1-4 pm Kitsap SSWM, Bremerton

### **Funding**

- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
  - On August 15, 2006 EPA issued a Request for Proposals for grants to support watershed implementation projects. Nine to twenty awards will be granted with an estimated total program funding of \$7,100,000 to \$16,000,000 with an award ceiling of \$900,000. EPA must receive the proposals on or before 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, November 15, 2006. For more information visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/synopsis.do> (Rylko, EPA)

### **Legislative or Congressional action or briefings**

- In order to provide an overview to other Washington State Representatives and Senators, Hood Canal Select Committee Chair Rep. Bill Eickmeyer asked Jan Newton (UW-APL) to provide a boat and an informational program to share with other Washington State legislators regarding Hood Canal hypoxia and the HCDOP IAM study. On 21 August, 35 participants, including 6 legislators, attended the boat tour provided by UW College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences. The tour was conducted in two legs, morning and afternoon, and participants learned first-hand about the Hood Canal situation and also how things like oxygen and currents are measured. Lunch was hosted by UW COFS Dean Nowell at Alderbrook including presentations by Eickmeyer, Newton, and Nowell, who presented the Hood Canal Select Committee members with 'Certificates of Knowledge' for their substantial efforts to better understand the Hood Canal ecosystem. The event was filmed by TVW and reported by the Kitsap Sun.
- Brad Ack and Duane Fagergren, PSAT, attended the legislative field trip.
- August 31, 2006: Hoodspout-to-Skokomish TriParty (Mason County, Skokomish Tribe, Mason County PUD) lower Hood Canal wastewater management planning MOU signing ceremony and briefing with Congressman Norm Dicks at the Skokomish Tribal Center. (Fagergren, PSAT; Eaton and Skadowski, EPA; Wallace, Ecy; Mike Allen and Rex Derr, State Parks)
- PSAT prepared decision packages for the upcoming biennial budget for education and sewage management and monitoring projects (Fagergren, Criss and Hull PSAT)

### **Communications**

- *Communications activities*
  - A promotional website for HC News is up and running which provides instructions and sample text for a graphic hotlink that advertises Hood Canal NEWS. This is available to anyone who wishes to help promote HC News on their website. If you add the graphic to your website please let Emily Piper know. For more information: [http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/hoodcanal\\_news/hc\\_news\\_promo.htm](http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/hoodcanal_news/hc_news_promo.htm).

➤ The September edition of Hood Canal NEWS is moving forward with the target publication date of September 25. PSAT hired Chanel Studebaker of Bright Idea Communications and Marketing on contract to help with the project. (Piper, WSU Mason/Criss, PSAT))

- *Media coverage*

Hood Canal Coverage

**State Lawmakers See Science Firsthand on Hood Canal**

Kitsap Sun

August 22, 2006

[http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_4935174,00.html](http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4935174,00.html)

**Hood Canal: Bad months ahead**

Seattle Post-Intelligencer (Editorial Board)

August 11, 2006

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/280839\\_hooded.asp](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/280839_hooded.asp)

**Scientists concerned Hood Canal will see large-scale fish kill**

(Same article in Seattle PI, see below)

The Olympian (AP)

August 7, 2006

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060807/NEWS/608070357>

**Plummeting oxygen levels threaten fish in Hood Canal**

Seattle Post-Intelligencer (AP)

August 7, 2006

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/280295\\_hoodcanal07.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/280295_hoodcanal07.html)

Oregon coast coverage

**Bacteria moving into coastal dead zone**

The Oregonian

September 1, 2006

<http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1157079310301610.xml&coll=7>

**Effects of coastal 'dead zone' unclear**

The Daily World - Grays Harbor and Pacific County (AP)

August 30, 2006

[http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2006/08/29/local\\_news/01news.txt](http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2006/08/29/local_news/01news.txt)

**'Dead Zone' Off Oregon Creates Alarm, and Skepticism**

New York Times

August 23, 2006

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/23/us/23deadzone.html?\\_r=2&ref=us&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/23/us/23deadzone.html?_r=2&ref=us&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

**Up-close view of dead zone shows "it's just a wasteland"**

Seattle Times

August 9, 2006

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003185060\\_deadzone09m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003185060_deadzone09m.html)

**'Dead zone' threat grows**

The Olympian

August 7, 2006

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060807/NEWS/608070356>